apocalypse
アポカリプス
倉田嘘
WON'T YOUR BRAIN TISSUE JUST ALL TURN TO MUSCLE?
SANSHIMA-CHAN, IF YOU KEEP BEING SO PREJUDICED AGAINST MODERN TECHNOLOGY
Try and say that again! I'll show you physical strength, you moron!!
WHAT!?
HUH? AND YOU, SHIBA-CHI?
SINCE YOU NEVER GO OUT AND ONLY EVER PLAY GAMES, WON'T YOU JUST WITHER AWAY?
Ah— then I take back the invi-tation!
Who's going to play that stupid game?!
I said it, didn't I?
JUST LIKE ALWAYS

NATSU, THE TRUTH IS
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
SINCE IT'S THE GAME THAT SHIBA-CHI HERSELF LOVES.
SHE BROUGHT IT FOR US SO SHE COULD PLAY IT WITH THE FRIENDS SHE ALSO LOVES
...
BUT NATSU, YOU'RE THINKING YOU WANT TO DO WAY MORE THINGS THAN JUST PLAYING THAT GAME.
WITH SHIBA-CHI AND EVERY-ONE...
...
DANG IT

IF ALL WE EVER DID WAS PLAY THAT GAME,
IF ALL THE MEMORIES WE HAVE OF HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER ARE JUST PLAYING THAT GAME, THAT'D BE PRETTY SAD.
...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT...
THE MORE YOU REFUSE IT, THE MORE IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE JUST BEING STUBBORN
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, NATSU?
LET'S TRY OUT THE GAME, JUST A LITTLE
IF WE DO THAT, SHIBA-CHI AND THE OTHERS SAID WE COULD MEET UP WITH THEM.
...

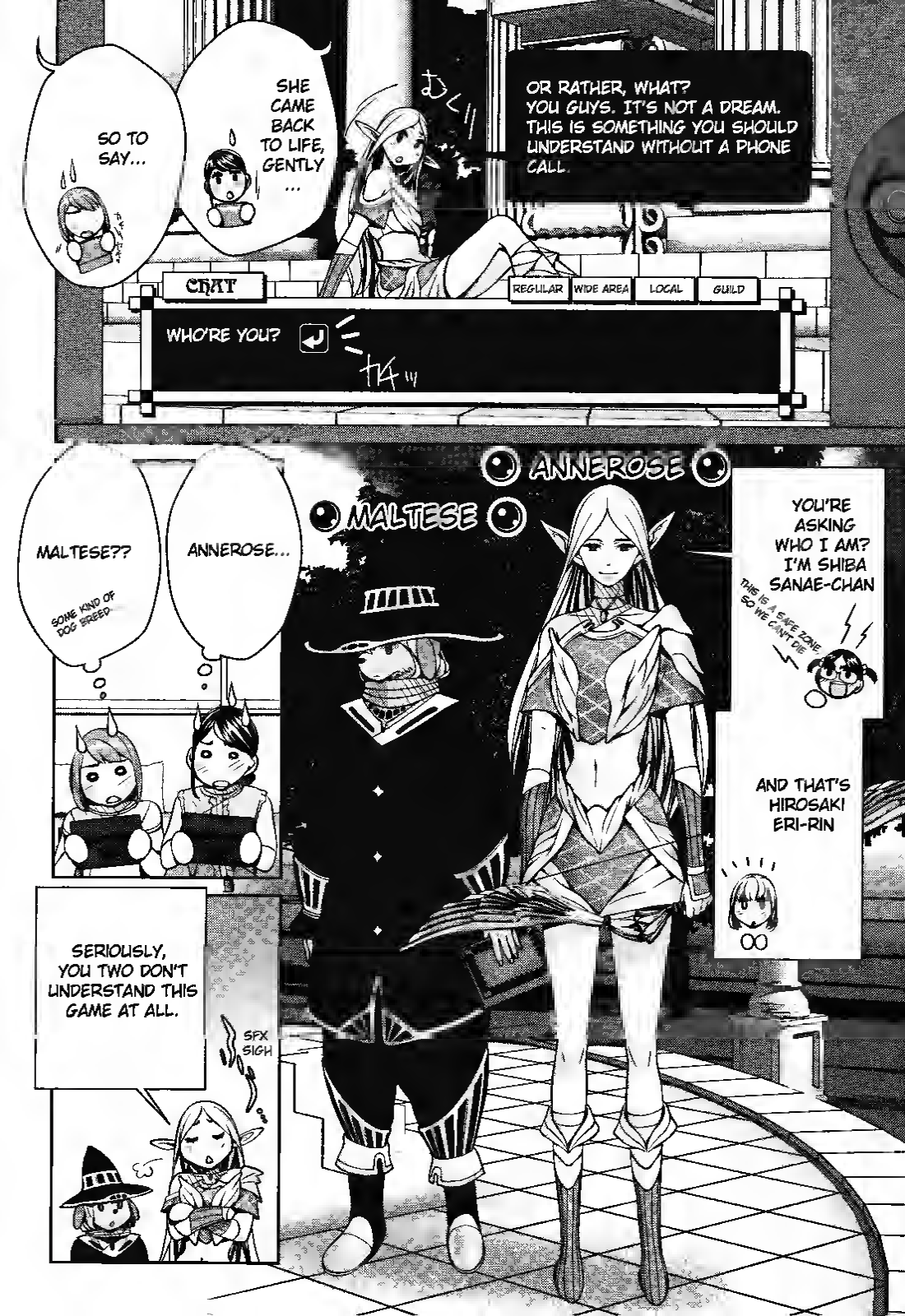
OH? BUT
IN ANY CASE I LEFT IT AT MY DESK WHEN I REFUSED IT...
THAT'S ALRIGHT
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I WENT AHEAD AND TOOK CARE OF IT
AFTER THIS, I'LL BRING THE MGP (MICRO GAME PLAYER) OVER TO YOUR HOUSE NATSU.
//
MICRO GAME PLAYER MMORPG
APOCALYPSE ONLINE
SHIBA-CHI TOLD ME TO CALL AND TELL HER WHEN WE'VE MADE OUR CHARACTERS AND LOGGED IN.
...
AH...
MICRO GAME
COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT

YOU UNDER-
STAND ME
COMPLETELY
YOU'RE
INCOMPARABLE,
KU, YOU'RE
ALWAYS...
TWO
OR THREE
STEPS AHEAD,
TAKING CARE
OF THINGS
FOR ME
FOR ALWAYS
WORRYING
ABOUT ME
THANKS, KU
WORRYING
ABOUT YOU
THAT'S NOT
SFX:
HEARTBEAT

IT'S BECAUSE
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO YOU, NATSU
HOW-EVER...
KU, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.
LET'S BE BEST FRIENDS FOREVER!
YEAH...
YOU'RE LOGGED INTO THE GAME.
SFX: PUSHING IN THE CARTRIDGE

Full Power!
Energy Shot!!
Maximum!
Soul Strike!!

WHAT...
WHAT A SUDDENLY VIOLENT GAME...
DEATH
YEAH, FOR REAL
AH
HMPH! TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!
THE CORPSE IS SAYING SOMETHING...


SO TO SAY...
SHE CAME BACK TO LIFE, GENTLY ...
OR RATHER, WHAT? YOU GUYS. IT'S NOT A DREAM. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITHOUT A PHONE CALL.
CHAT
REGULAR
WIDE AREA
LOCAL
GUILD
WHO'RE YOU?
MALTESE
ANNEROSE
MALTESE??
SOME KIND OF DOG BREED.
ANNEROSE...
YOU'RE ASKING WHO I AM? I'M SHIBA SANAE-CHAN
THIS IS A SAFE ZONE SO WE CAN'T DIE
AND THAT'S HIROSAKI ERI-RIN
SERIOUSLY, YOU TWO DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS GAME AT ALL.
SFX SIGH

EVEN IF YOU GET SUDDENLY FURIOUS, YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY PUNCH PEOPLE!
IT MUST BE GREAT THAT YOUR SHOULDERS NEVER GET STIFF
AHAHA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK THE SAME AND HAVE THE SAME NAMES
MATSUBARA KUMIKO
MITSUOGI NATSU
NATSU
KU
EVEN IF YOU WANT TO SHOOT THINGS UP IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IF YOU PLAY WHILE YOU'RE BATHING, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD
YES, MOM
But in games there's Action!
and Shooting!!
If you're in the game, you can do anything!!

THAT'S WHAT A "GAME" IS!!
IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN DO THINGS YOU AREN'T ABLE TO IN REALITY
SO ERI'S A LITTLE ECCENTRIC...
I WANTED TO BECOME SOMETHING THAT WASN'T A PERSON...
IF YOU GO WITH THAT THEORY, SHIBA-CHI'S CHARACTER IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND, BUT...
SHIBA-CHI YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
INCIDENTALLY, SANAE'S PLAYING THE ROLE OF MY OWNER...
DOG?
BIG DOG, CHAN?
HEY, KU...
ITEMS
IF YOU HAVE ANY UNEQUIPPED ITEMS, QUICKLY PUT THEM ON!
ANYWAY, I'M TIRED OF WAITING AROUND!! LET'S GO HUNTING!
GO GO

EQUIPMENT
THERE'S ONE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT I HAVEN'T PUT ON, BUT...
HM...
THAT?
SOME KIND OF MESSAGE IS SHOWING
"ITEM IS A DUPLICATE. YOU CANNOT EQUIP IT," IT SAYS
AH, REALLY?
MESSAGE
ITEM IS A DUPLICATE. YOU CANNOT EQUIP...
NATSU
KU
THEN I'LL GIVE THIS ONE TO YOU, KU.
YEAH, IF YOU LOOK, YOU'RE WEARING AN IDENTICAL ONE
TRAGE
EDITOR'S NOTE: YES, IN THE RAW THEY MESSED UP "TRADE" FOR "TRAGE"...
THANKS
?

IT SURPRISED ME...
...!
Hera's Marriage Rings!!!
...

WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A PUBLICLY RUMORED SUPER RARE ITEM!
ANYWAY, TRY READING THE ITEM DESCRIPTION!!
"HERA'S MARRIAGE RING (BETA TESTING)"
IN ORDER TO TEST THE MARRIAGE SYSTEM FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION, THIS SPECIAL ITEM HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO RANDOMLY SELECTED USERS.
IN ORDER TO UTILIZE THE PARTNERSHIP, THE USER MUST CHOOSE A PARTNER CHARACTER AND GIVE THAT CHARACTER THE MATCHING RING...
HERA'S MARRI...
FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION...
DISTRIBUTED...
USE: S...
PARTNERSHIP...
RING...
THE RING...
MARRI...
THE TWO CHARACTERS WHO HAVE THE RINGS ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE MARRIED CHARACTER BENEFITS TOGETHER.
WHAT?
THEY NOW HAVE A "MARRIED RELATIONSHIP".
NATSU AND I ARE...!?
MAR...RIED...!!?

YOU TWO, GET CLOSER TOGETHER
IT SEEMS LIKE WHEN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR TWO CHARACTERS IS SMALLER, THE MARRIAGE EFFECT GAINS IN POWER
LET'S ANALYZE THAT RARE ITEM
IT'S SUDDEN, BUT LET'S CHANGE OUR PLANS
UM... SO IN THAT CASE
IT'S BECAUSE ELVES TAKE THINGS EXCEEDINGLY QUICKLY
OH, CHANGE PLANS QUICK!
WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE LIGHT, YOU CAN TELL THE INCREASE IN THE RINGS' EFFECTS.
OH...

WHEN YOU GET CLOSE TOGETHER, YOU FACE EACH OTHER. AND HAVE THIS EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE
IT'S REALLY WELL DONE...
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GRAPHICS DESIGNERS--
PRESS THE L AND R BUTTONS AT THE SAME TIME
WHAT'S MORE, IF YOU SIT DOWN WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THAT, YOUR RECOVERY RATE GOES UP
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ACTUALLY THERE
THIS IS TOO WELL DONE...
REALLY WELL DONE, SHE SAID.

IF WE WERE REALLY ABLE TO BECOME LOVERS
IF...

SURELY, IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE THIS...

AH! ...
Guaaaaa!!
WHAT'S MADE YOU SUDDENLY WRITHE IN AGONY?
IT-IT'S FROM THE REAL SIDE
THE THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME...
THERE ARE CIRCUM-STANCES ABOUT WHICH I CAN DO NOTHING...
REALITY
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, TOO
TURN THAT GAME OFF
AH!! BUT WE'RE STILL AT A GOOD PART
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE OFF HERE FOR TODAY, BUT...
YOU'VE BEEN NEGLECTING YOUR HOME-WORK, RIGHT?
SO, LET'S CLOSE IT HERE?
YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, BUT
EVERYONE?

SORRY FOR TODAY
EVEN THOUGH I SPOKE SELFISHLY WHEN I INVITED YOU ALL, IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD THAT YOU CAME ONLINE TO MEET WITH ME
THANK YOU
I DON'T WANT TO JUST SAY "EVERYONE, LET'S PLAY TOMORROW, TOO", SINCE I THINK YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN THIS GAME ONE SHOT FOR ME.
THEREFORE
I THINK, I ALSO WANT TO DO SOMETHING TOGETHER THAT EVERYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE TO DO.
SINCE IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO DAZZLED BY THEIR RARE ITEM! THIS IS A SURPRISE!
SILENCE, DOG
RAIN TOMORROW
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ERI?
I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY
THEN, MATSUBARA-CHAN?
HUH?
AH...

...
HEY
HEY
NATSU WHAT DO YOU...
$4
...THINK WE SHOULD DO?
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING AFFECTED BY THESE GRAPHICS.
IT'S LIKE THIS FOR ME, BUT FOR HER...

OK
IN THAT CASE...
I LEAVE IT TO YOU NATSU
EITHER WAY IS FINE BY ME, TOO
IT'S NOT A REASON FOR NATSU TO WANT TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THE GAME...
playing the game!!
Let's continue

WE LOVE EACH OTHER
I WAS ABLE TO MARRY KU WITH THIS PRETTY RING
WE'RE BOTH GIRLS, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL AWKWARD

Huh...?!?
SO THIS IS...
A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

A-AH...
THANKS FOR COMING
YOU SAID IT.
THEN, THANKS FOR COMING! SEE YOU TOMORROW!!
CONGRATULATIONS, ME!
MESSAGE
ANNEROSE HAS LOGGED OUT
MALTESE HAS LOGGED OUT
KU??
!!!
BUT THE TIME PASSED SO QUICKLY!!
WE SHOULD LOG OUT TOO...
SHIBA-CHI SAYS SHE'LL PLAN TO DO SOMETHING ELSE WITH US
BUT WE'VE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO MAKE UP
THANKS TO YOU, KU!

HUH?!
AH...
AH!!!
THAT'S RIGHT, WHAT I SAID EARLIER

JUST A THING IN THE GAME, AFTER ALL
THAT'S...
IT'S NOT REALLY TRUE, I KNOW, THAT WE LOVE EACH OTHER
I MEAN AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU, THEN ITS ALRIGHT TO DO IN GAME.
IF IT BOTHERS YOU...
THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE REAL, RIGHT? MARRYING EACH OTHER, KU...

SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU SO LATE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
I'VE WARNED MYSELF ABOUT THIS MANY TIMES, RIGHT?
I UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
DON'T ASK FOR ANY-THING.
DON'T HOPE FOR ANYTHING!

WHAT!?
IT'S THE GAMES FAULT, THAT IMAGE...
THIS IS BAD
I CAN'T STOP
THIS IS
WHA...
SFX // TEARDROPS
NOT REALITY.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SOMETHING THAT DEFINITELY COULDN'T HAPPEN IN REALITY...

YOU AREN'T ABLE TO IN REALITY!!
IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN DO THINGS
ぬか
ぬか
ぬか

NATSU!
YES?
SFX PHONE RINGING
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?
UM... IT'S ABOUT THE GAME, BUT...
WHEN I GET TO MY HOUSE, WANT TO PRACTICE PLAYING A LITTLE BIT MORE?
LET'S NOT BE BEAT BY SHIBA-CHI AND ERI-RIN

ALONE, AS A MARRIED COUPLE
EVEN THOUGH IT IS A WISH THAT WON'T COME TRUE...
THIS FICTION COULD NEVER COME TRUE
EVEN THOUGH I UNDERSTAND
ARE YOU PERHAPS ADDICTED TO THE GAME, KU?
SURE, HAHA
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL CRUMBLE APART...
MAYBE
IF I DON'T DO THIS
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